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CITY NEWS

50¢

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MARCH 5 - MARCH 11, 1997

WHITMAN DELIVERS CURRICULUM GUIDE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

TRENTON, NJ (AP)—Gov. Christie Whitman went to school last week to deliver a copy of the New Jersey African American curriculum guide at a ceremony in a classroom at Trenton Central High School.

The guide will be part of Whitman's core curriculum standards that are part of her school funding law. The standards show what students should learn, but schools have the freedom to decide how they're taught.

The 197-page guide, however, did not begin with the Whitman administration. It is 10 years in the making, dating back to former Gov. Thomas H. Kean.

Whitman told the high school students she hopes the guide will help them "understand and appreciate cultural diversity. I truly want us to reach the point where we're not scared of our differences."

Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, the capital city's first black chief executive, said when he attended school, there were few lessons about black history. "All we were told was the Negroes were slaves," said Palmer, who reminded the students that New York City's first black mayor, David Dinkins, grew up in Trenton.

The guide was delivered Monday to the state's 1,000 high schools.

NATIONAL WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF ALEXIS HERMAN

At a press conference on Feb. 26, 1997, several of the nation's largest women's organizations and other political supporters, launched a campaign urging senate confirmation hearings for Alexis Herman.

Herman is the only Clinton cabinet nominee who has not yet had a confirmation hearing scheduled. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL) says she has been unable to ascertain the reason for the hesitation from neither republican nor democratic senators. Dr. Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women said there should be no doubt about Herman's confirmation. "Alexis is well qualified professionally and personally. She knows how to get the job done and she knows what is needed in the Black community."

There is much speculation that Sen. Jeffers (R-VT), chair of the Senate Hearing Committee, will soon set a hearing date for the week of March 10.

DEATH ROW PRESIDENT SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS IN PRISON

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Death Row Records president Marion "Suge" Knight will continue to run the company from jail, despite being sentenced to nine years in prison for violating probation.

"Death Row Records will go on," Knight's lawyer David Kenner said Friday. "Death Row is a movement, and it will continue to go under the direction of Mr. Knight."

Superior Court Judge J. Stephen Ziegler gave Knight the maximum sentence February 28. "You blew it," Ziegler said. "You really had everything going for you. The problem is, you have engaged over the years in one thing that causes me grave concern ... and that is the danger element."

Ziegler ruled last year that Knight violated his probation by taking part in a fight at a Las Vegas hotel on Sept. 7. Hours later, Tupac Shakur was shot in a drive-by attack as he rode in Knight's car. The rapper died six days later.

Knight said he has never been to break up the brawl but Ziegler decided he was an aggressor. Knight was sentenced to five years of probation in 1995 after pleading no contest to assaulting two reporters at a Hollywood recording studio three years earlier. A judge revoked his probation in November and sent him to jail.

NAACP calls boycott of hotels

By Paul Shepard
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, DC (AP)—The NAACP called for a boycott of Holiday Inn, Best Western and other leading hotel chains Wednesday, accusing the lodging industry's record in the hiring and promoting of blacks.

The boycott is the first step in a broader effort to maximize black buying power in corporate America, said NAACP President Kweisi Mfume.

"African Americans spend more than \$4 billion annually on travel and

lodging, with much of this going to the lodging industry," Mfume said. "The lodging industry has an abysmal record of including African Americans in all aspects of its operations."

Mfume urged people "to immediately exercise personal responsibility and use our consumer guide" when planning business trips and vacations. Without prompting, he added: "A selective boycott... yes. It means exactly that. Punish, quite frankly, our enemies."

Some hotel representatives defended their record on black hiring, and said they were not enemies of the NAACP. A majority of the 10 targeted

chains had declined to cooperate with the group's survey of black employees and managers.

Craig Smith, a vice president for Holiday Inn public relations, said the refusal to get detailed information about hotel operations had nothing to do with a lack of commitment to equal opportunity.

"We support the work and spirit of the NAACP but politely declined to give them that data," Smith said. "We don't provide data on our operations to anyone."

"We have a good story to tell," said Anne Curtis of the Choice Hotels.



NAACP Executive Director Kweisi Mfume

Urban League calls for support of public schools, parent involvement

Urban League President Hugh Price lauds policy makers for "not giving up" on public schools

WASHINGTON, DC—National Urban League President Hugh Price has praised the nation's lawmakers

and President Clinton for making education a top priority and urged them to find solutions to preserve the nation's

public education system, which he said is in danger of becoming extinct, particularly in urban areas. However, Price said voucher plans, which many in Congress support, could undermine a shared societal responsibility in educating all of the nation's children.

"Vouchered schools do not play by the same rules governing admissions, discipline and expulsion. What's most offensive, vouchers could subsidize the flight of white students. The persistence of unofficial segregation is a problem enough in public education without underwriting it with taxpayer's money," said Price.

The Urban League president praised President Clinton for issuing a "call to action" to make America's education system the envy of the world. "Answering that call is the urgent domestic challenge facing the nation," Mr. Price said, "and the stiffest—and most compelling—task is to lift inner-city and rural youngsters,

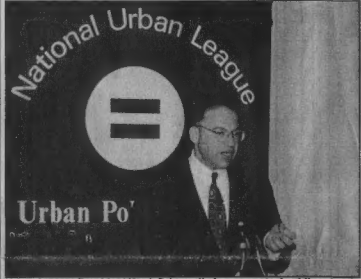
who chronically lag behind, to globally accepted standards."

Price was joined by some of the nation's leading educators who looked at realities and presented new solutions at the NUL forum. A No Excuses Era in Public Education: Standards for the 21st Century at the National Press Club.

In addition to asking for support from political leaders, he called on parents to shoulder more responsibility for their children. "It's time for parents to get involved and ensure their youngsters come to school ready to learn. Time for community groups and employers to create a climate of support and opportunity that steers young people clear of destructive temptation—and toward lifelong success."

Price's assertions were supported by forum participant Dr. Lawrence Steinberg, professor at Temple Uni-

See PRICE CALLS FOR/page 10



Urban League President Hugh Price calls for support of public schools

Baseball dedicates season to Robinson

By Ronald Blum
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball dedicated its 1997 season to Jackie Robinson last week and will donate \$1 million to the foundation established for the player who broke the sport's color line 50 years ago.

"It was baseball's proudest moment. It's still baseball's proudest moment, and I believe it will always be baseball's proudest moment," acting commissioner Bud Selig said. "Should it have come earlier? Certainly. There never should have been

a barrier."

At a news conference attended by Robinson's widow, Rachel, Selig said:

"All major and minor league players and all major league umpires will wear 'Breaking Barriers' arm patches this season."

"All teams will use balls with the commemorative logo in their home openers;

100,000 gold and 200,000 silver commemorative coins will be sold by the U.S. Mint. Teams will show Robinson video spots created by filmmaker Spike Lee on their stadium scoreboards and television broadcasts;

the All-Star game in Cleveland will be dedicated to Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, and he will be honorary captain of the AL team.

"The residue of racism is still with us and the struggle is still on," Rachel Robinson said. "We need to have a vision and we need to have a plan."

When Robinson made his big league debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947, he became the first black in the major leagues since Moses Fleetwood Walker of Toledo in the American Association in 1884.

President Clinton said he will attend ceremonies at Shea Stadium on April 15 to mark the anniversary and

will speak from the field during the game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets.

"The Robinson challenge was not just to the pitcher, but to society as a whole," said N.L. president Len Coleman, the chairman of the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

"He was my hero, my champion. He carried my every hope and aspiration on his shoulders," said Coleman, who was inspired by Robinson when he was young and has become baseball's point man in organizing the tribute.

Selig said baseball will make a

See BASEBALL/page 2

Plainfield High School students participate in robot competition

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

PLAINFIELD—For past six years, students from all over the country have participated in a competition for engineering students called Project FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). This year will be the first competition for students at Plainfield High School who will participate in the Mid-Atlantic Competition at Rutgers University on March 20-22.

In the FIRST events, students have six weeks to construct robots that they will enter in competition against entries from other schools. The entries are required to perform various tasks to display their abilities in regional elimination matches, such as hurling inner tubes at a rotating metal tripod, or piling inflated balls in a container. The victors of the regional go on to the national championships in EPSCOT Center in Orlando, Florida. Somerset County Vo-Tech and Hillsborough High School were the first schools in New Jersey to take part in the competition. This year they are



Left to right, standing: Dr. Gail Van Ekeren, physics teacher and advisor, Jeremy A. Dudley, Lawrence Carter, Juana Inoa, Haneel Rosa, Gavin McFarrell, Matthew Zullo, teacher and advisor, Farred Harding, Jeannine Couper, kneeling: Orna Shtrout, Aleese Scott, Stephanie Foster, Shavante Hilda.

joined by Watching Hills Regional High School, Bound Brook High School, Hunterdon Central High School, and Plainfield, Plainfield, however, is at a slight disadvantage. The other schools have gained corporate sponsorship from corporations like Ethicon and General Public Utilities. The students at PHS are going at it without such support, although Rutgers University has worked with them in the construction of their robot.

through Dr. Madara Opt and students from the School of Engineering, and the South Plainfield Home Depot donated carpet for the Robot Practice area.

The project, nonetheless is having a profound effect on the students. "I think it's a great experience for everybody," said Junior Aleese Scott, who was in charge of parts and helped design the logic which controls the robot. "It's definitely something we will

not forget. I've never really considered engineering before, but I think (it) will be a very good field for me to get into." Farred Harding, also a Junior, has already planned for a career in computer engineering, and this project simply reinforced his goals. "I learned a lot," he said. "You have to think to do this kind of work."

"I thought it was great," said Gail Van Ekeren of the project, who as a physics teacher along with Mr. Matthew Zullo guided the students in their robot's construction. "I really like the interaction with Rutgers and the fact that several of their students realize how very talented they are, something I've known all along."

Whether or not they win the regional or the national competition down the line, Plainfield High School is getting the most out of the experience, and they intend to be a part of future competitions. Sophomore Omar Stroud says he has three years to go in high school and he already has plans for the next robot, jokingly suggesting that the next one will be something out of the futuristic cartoon "Voltron." "I liked the opportunity to use my mind," he said.

BLACK PRESS

170 Years Long - 170 Years Strong

Part I

History is defined as the recorded events of the past - given the fact that the basic freedoms upon which America was built, were denied our ancestors, make it an even greater testament of unparalleled creativity, ingenuity and strength to our lineage and their ability to persevere. We celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Black Press for not only recording the events of the past, but more importantly, taking an active role in the shaping of our future for the survival and ultimate betterment of our community.



John B. Russwurm - (1799-1851, Born in Jamaica, British West Indies) Attended school in Canada and then entered Bowdoin College in Maine. He graduated in 1826, becoming one of two Afro-Americans to receive an American college-level degree. With Rev. Samuel Cornish, he founded and edited Freedom's Journal in New York.

The roots of America's Black press are planted firmly in the soil of the church as evidenced by the events that took place one Sunday morning in November, 1787. A gathering of Black parishioners had come to predominantly White St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, an edifice they had helped build, to worship. As the minister, a Black man named Richard Allen, began the opening prayer, a disturbance interrupted the solemnity of the moment. A White usher was insisting that all Black worshippers remove themselves from the first floor to the balcony.

Allen decided to lead the entire Black assembly firmly in the sanctuary and into history in the first nonviolent public demonstration by African-Americans. Among those joining the demonstration was another minister, Absalom Jones, the first Black person to be ordained in the United States. After the walk-out, Allen founded the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), Jones, an Episcopalian, founded the first African Church of St. Thomas because he preferred the Anglican form of worship. Despite their sectarian differences, Allen and Jones were instrumental in organizing Philadelphia's Free African Society and joined with James Forten, a wealthy Black sailmaker, in circulating petitions attacking discrimination and segregation in that city.

With a tradition of church support as the cultural, social, political, and communications center in the community, it was not uncommon for early publishers and editors of the Black Press to be ministers. Reverend Samuel Cornish, a clergyman, along with John B. Russwurm were the cofounders of the first Black newspaper in the United States, Freedom's Journal. This flagship tour de force contained articles on culture, special interest features and entertainment, demonstrating that African-Americans were a well-rounded and diverse people.

The paths of John B. Russwurm and Reverend Samuel Cornish crossed at a pivotal moment in history, earning them a significant place in the annals of American journalism. The impetus for this distinction stemmed

See BLACK PRESS/page 8

Community Calendar

MARCH 5, 19, APRIL 2
WAYNE—Interactive television (ITV) course can be taken at William Paterson College, Hackensack Heights High School, Westwood High School, or School #26 in Paterson. For more information, call 201-592-2436.

THROUGH MAY 10
JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on the JCSC campus at 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3068.

THROUGH MAR. 27
UPPER MONTCLAIR—An eight-week "English as Second Language" program is being offered at Montclair State University. Registration will be held on Jan. 13 and 15. For more information call (201) 655-4353.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
BELLE MEAD—"Sexual Compulsion/Addiction" will be presented at 12 in the Atkinson Amphitheater at Carleer Forest. For more information, call 908-281-1461.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
EDISON—JFK Advantage is sponsoring a day trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. For more information, call 800-222-3116.

EAST ORANGE—The NJ Million Man March Coalition will have a statewide meeting April 4 at St. John's Masonic Lodge, 428 Central Ave. For more information call (609) 385-1946.

MONDAY, MARCH 10
NEWARK—Black Women Speak Out on Welfare Forum at the Centre. For more information, call 201-624-5420.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
NEWARK—Free infection control course for EMTs and resident nurses in the radiology conference room of Saint Michael's Medical Center. For more information, call 908-754-1036.

Who are the 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

May 1, 1997

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Union County honors youth services commission

UNION COUNTY—The Union County Youth Services Commission was honored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the outstanding job they did in developing a plan to implement the ongoing State/Community Partnership Grant Program in the County, which aids troubled and at-risk youth, according to Freeholder Carol Cohen. The Youth Services Commission is responsible for funneling money from the NJ Department of Human Services to local projects and recommends how programs are implemented in the County affecting juveniles.

"Parameters for goals were set by the state and developed with input from the chairs of the nine working groups that comprise the Governor's

Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice, the County Family Court Judges, representatives from state agencies involved in the reform initiative, the Juvenile Detention Association and the Family Part of the Administrative Office of the Courts," said Freeholder Cohen, liaison to the Youth Services Commission. "It is truly a major accomplishment that the members of the Youth Services commission reached these goals, and they deserve to be honored and recognized for an outstanding job."

The Youth Services Commission plan also calls for implementing various programs for the troubled and at-risk youth such as job training, education, including G.E.D., counseling and home detention.



From left are Robert Fitzpatrick of Kenilworth, Family Court; Robert Blount, Department of Human Services; Rick Alexander of North Plainfield, Family Court; Linda Wood of Elizabeth, Union County CART; Freeholder Cohen; Joan Collins of Cranford, Catholic Community Services; Jim Edlinton of Linden, Department of Human Services; Deborah White of Cranford, Union County Prosecutor's Office, and former commission member Joe Lee. Not present were William Elser, Esq., Anita Pestcoe, Darrell Hatchett, Jill Kohlbecker, Tom Comerford, Judge Rudolph Hawkins, Jr., Joseph Borio, Fred Bostel, Susan Demetrios, and Victoria Moreno.

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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

BY MISS ANNA

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: It seems as if you are working harder than ever lately. And that each task requires twice the time and effort it would normally take. There is a lot of pressure on you, both in the workplace and at home. Take the extra time to look after yourself.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Your manner is quite pleasing and others see you as being accepting - don't let them down. This week will probably showcase your determined spirit; when you have something to fight for you win. A close friend needs advice without criticism.

Taurus: (April 21-May 21)

Follow your hunches regarding money matters, especially those situations you have no real experience with. Be candid in your relationships, it looks as if the lines of communications are a bit snagged. It's time to discuss your plans for the future.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

You tend to worry about money and would be better off being careful how you spend discretionary income. Think big this week. Your charming self will open new doors for you - everyone wants you around, because everyone likes to feel good. You'll accomplish all.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

You need to get things done, but nobody else seems to want to go along with the program - looks like you're on your own. Pay attention to a close friend who gives you some truly constructive suggestions on how to handle your finances. Home is your refuge - you'll be spending more time there.

LEO: (July 24-August 23)

Your ability to be objective will help you to resolve a fairly sticky situation between two co-workers. Romance is in the air - your love life couldn't be any better. Guard against intense feelings of jealousy, there really is no cause for such strong reactions.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

Disappointments in your love life are painful, but you realize that you are not at fault for what happened. Don't drive yourself too hard at work week, because you won't receive the credit due. You are indecisive by nature, and tend to go along with plans already made.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

Keep yourself busy this week and don't think about depressing things. A change is coming in your life. Concentrate on maintaining harmonious relations with those you love - try to spend more quality time with them. Your sense of humor is infectious to others.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 22)

However hard it may be, try to be charitable to those who give you a hard time. Your warm and understanding personality will shine through, and those around you will respond favorably. You have a flow of creative energy that needs to be channeled into a worthwhile project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 21)

Finish up old projects at home and in the workplace, before starting new ones - or everything will catch up with you. You'll accomplish all and people will be caught in your enthusiasm. If you have been quarreling with family members, its time to set things straight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

There will be plenty of variety, so there's little chance of being bored. Both friendship and group endeavors will dominate - your ability to cooperate comes in handy. Any goals you set will be achieved. Are your expectations in romance realistic?

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

Spend time working on routine matters, and you will be surprised how well the week will go. It's possible that you may be under pressure in the workplace, but that never slows you down; continue at your own pace. Ask a close friend for financial advice.

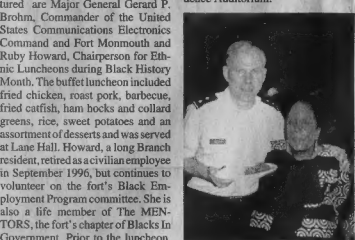
PISCES: (February 20-March 20)

Family issues are most on your mind. Older people depend on you for certain feedback. Your thinking maybe just a bit fuzzy, and you are inclined to go off on flights of fancy - it's okay to do so. Your jealousy of a mate is lucky, keep your cool!

BIG hosts luncheon

by Avery Grant

the play "Ajoyo: A Celebration of African American History" was performed by Inani Productions in Prudence Auditorium.



Spike Lee does deal with Columbia Pictures

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Spike Lee is going bi-racial. Lee ("Malcolm X," "Do the Right Thing") has made a production deal with Columbia Pictures, the studio said Friday. Lee will keep an office on Columbia's suburban Culver City lot in addition to his New York office.

"The first job I ever had in the film industry was an eight-week internship at Columbia Pictures straight out of Morehouse College. It feels great to be back," Lee said in a statement.

Lee's most recent film, "Get on the Bus," was from Columbia. His long-term, "first-look" deal with Columbia calls for him to write, direct and produce movies for the studio.

Michael won't return Osmonds call

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson is not returning Donny Osmond's phone calls anymore.

"I've lost contact with Michael, ever since 'Bad' came out," Osmond said Friday on the "Fox After Breakfast" program. "I tried to call a couple of times, just to wish him my best and support for all of the problems he's gone through."

Years ago the two would chit-chat often about the drudgery of child stardom. Osmond, like Jackson, burst into the spotlight as a lead singer for a family act.

But as the two wandered through adulthood, Jackson underwent plastic surgery, fought child molestation charges and saw the birth of his son. Osmond played Las Vegas.

"We wish we could have been normal," said Osmond, 39. "And how we wish we could have just gone outside and had friends because we never had that opportunity. We never had the chance."

Naomi collapses in London

LONDON (AP)—Naomi Campbell was hospitalized after collapsing with stomach pains in a London street, a newspaper reported.

The British model was on her way to dinner Thursday night when she doubled over with pain, the London Evening Standard reported.

Campbell was tested for appendicitis, but there was no word on what exactly caused her attack.

"She was in a lot of pain this morning but they managed to stabilize her," Miranda Denoff of Elite Press modeling agency told The Associated Press.

Campbell, 26, was hoping to rest for a couple of days before flying to Italy for a new round of shows.

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EDITORIAL

Dr. King: a Celebration of Hope

Each year, as we celebrate Dr. Martin King's birthday and reflect on his speech "I Have a Dream," it fills many of us with hope, at times, anger and a new sense of determination. It gives us hope because he shared his dream and the realization that America's promise was a check marked, "insufficient funds."

Dr. King gave of his vision of what America should and could be like. We felt the dream! It fills us with anger because his assassination seemed to be the devil's way of denying us King's vision or ever seeing the dream become a reality. It angers so many of us because we see, since his death, that rather than moving to accomplish the dream, America still wants us to accept a check with insufficient funds.

It angers us because we know that if there was as much energy put into building schools to create achievement as there is put into building prisons, we would move further toward achieving Dr. King's dream. There would be less crime!

We know that if there was as much effort put into creating capital for expanding and growing businesses, there would be more jobs and less welfare! We know that if there was as much effort put into rebuilding urban centers and creating wealth in those centers, there would be less poverty and the agencies serving the poor could benefit from the strength of their own communities.

Our anger can fuel positive action, making us determined to see the dream passed on to our children so they may strive to make it a reality. It is imperative, now, more than ever that our children know the hope and God's promise to take us to the mountain top that Dr. King shared. We must help them keep the dream alive.

Judges should face taxpayers

We taxpayers should be thankful that we have such generous "judges" who have never been elected by the taxpayers but are appointed mainly by corrupt politicians. As a businessman, I see that 400 state court judges who earn \$100,000 a year just received a 15 percent raise by Governor Whitman. When told that they would have to pay nearly \$1,500 a year toward their health insurance, they threatened a lawsuit.

It is time these judges face the taxpayers. Being appointed instead of being elected caused them to be arrogant and above the law.

Professor Frank C. Marmo (Retired)

A voice from the hill where the jobs are

By George Wilson

These days it's quite popular for the President and other politicians to speak in glowing terms about moving people from welfare to employment. This wishful thinking worked its way into the landscape after the so-called welfare reform bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton.

I know we all function in our own little corners of the world, but for the life of me, I couldn't seem to see where all of these jobs were located. Surely the President and Congress in their collective wisdom had something in mind when they talked about jobs.

It wasn't until I happened to pick up a copy of a magazine called *In These Times* that I found out where one can find a job, regardless of training in America's fastest growing industry — the corrections business. There are no shortage of workers in the prison industry. According to a report recently released by the Washington-based Sentencing Project, over 50 percent of the nation's jail cells are occupied by African-Americans. When one listens to the radio that is usually turned on in Capitol Hill, it seems quite obvious that more African-Americans will find themselves in the prison system serving time in privately-owned facilities. This move to privatize prisons was agreed to at Washington when it was judged that a part of the correctional system would be sold to a private concern for over \$50 million.

According to the *In These Times* article, several dozen companies are now in the business of building and operating prisons. Among them are the Wackenhut Correction Corporation (which even made the prestigious *Forbes* list as one of the nation's "200 best small companies" because of its impressive growth) and the

Correction Corporation of America, but what does all of this have to do with jobs? The quick answer is plenty. Inmates are performing all types of tasks that they wouldn't find the chance to do on the outside. For instance, in New Mexico, some prisoners take hotel reservations by telephone in Ohio; prisoners are making pants for Honda; some inmates make prescription eye wear and others even tend the blood of their fellow inmates for major medical firms.

These tasks are generally performed at less than minimum wage and in some cases, companies are closing plants on the outside when their cutting their operations inside prison walls. And even when prisoners are paid minimum wage, in at least one instance, 80 percent of those wages are taken out by the prison for room and board and other fees. This arrangement in the nation's correctional facilities has a striking resemblance to an era and a practice we allegedly thought had been ended by "The Great Emancipation."

With yet another crime bill being bandied around in legislative circles and the clamor to "lock 'em up" increasing, the number of workers will grow. Just consider that 12 states and the District of Columbia incarcerate African-Americans at a rate of more than 10 times that of whites. Such figures make me think of a line from the comedian Richard Pryor's monologues, in which he describes the justice system as being comprised of "just us."

TEAM BUILDING:

A positive approach for African-Americans to take in Ethnicity-Conscious America

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines a team as: "A number of persons associated together in work or activity."

The goal of this article is to apply the above definition to a challenge that I would like to make to all Americans of African descent. We should think of ourselves as a team; potentially, a winning team. The timing for this challenge is ideal. For I sincerely believe that this is the best time in the history of this country to be an African-American living in America.

The first part of the definition should present no problem since we as a group — are forced by racial identification to be associated together. The second part of the definition, however, is more problematic.

Having recognized that we are lumped or classified as a member of the ethnic group called African-Americans, Americans of African descent, the next question in context of this discussion is, will we as individuals — representing a broad spectrum of incomes, educational achievements,

By Dr. Manning Marable
Along the Color Line

This is not a column about O. J. Simpson's personal tragedy. It is not an examination of his 1996 criminal trial, which found him not guilty, or his recent civil trial, which established his responsibility for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Neither is it about his consistency or weaknesses of the prosecution's case, nor the sudden establishment of Johnny Cochran last year as a popular political icon among segments of the black community.

Over the past two and one-half years, a virtual industry has been constructed around the trials and tribulations of former Heisman award-winner O.J. Simpson. Only days after his initial arrest, a tidal wave of black communities emblazoned with the slogan "Free O.J." Slezary pseudojournalists like Gerald Rivera used the controversy to resurrect their faltering careers. Prosecutors who had failed to convince a jury of O.J.'s guilt in the criminal trial nevertheless succeeded in raking in millions of dollars from book contracts. All the central protagonists in the case seemed to be "making a killing."

As the late great scholar and thinker Cheikh Anta Diop wrote in describing an aspect of the crux of this 2,000 year old problem, he said: "A visitor to Thebes in the Valley of the Kings can view the Moslem inferno in detail (in the tomb of Sitt, of the Nineteenth Dynasty, 1700 years before the Koran.)"

Diop continues — "Oasis at the tribulation of the modern world is the revealed religions, sitting obedient on Judgment Day, and we know that certain Biblical passages are practically copies of Egyptian moral texts."

Finally, Diop explains that "To his [Diop's] surprise and astonishment, the incredible African" will discover that most of the ideas used to solve, or steal his, were conceived by his African ancestors. To be come conscious of that fact is perhaps the first step toward a genuine re-

lief (winning) tactics of other ethnic groups who look when to think and act broadly as Americans and when to think and act parochially as members of a special interest group (i.e., a team).

While the enumeration listed below is not meant to be exhaustive, I sincerely hope these suggestions will lead to some behavioral modifications or, at least, spark some lively debate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO BUILD A WINNING AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEAM:

1. Never refer to African Americans as "we." Always begin with "I."

2. Refuse to be envious of another African American's success.

3. Consciously seek out African-American owned businesses and support them.

4. If these businesses do not adhere to high standards (i.e., providing quality goods and services), share your constructive criticism with them before replacing by the owner of a more national purpose, but until the majority embraces this vision, African Americans must study the sur-

rounding of the African Centered Education Movement recognizes, at its foundation, that African people must re-define their minds, bodies, souls and lands. That is, we must come back into ourselves as a whole African people. If we are going to solve the numerous devastating problems we face as a race,

We can see manifestations of these efforts to return to Africa when we observe members of the old line Civil Rights Movement providing leadership and organizing the African American Summits on four different occasions in Africa the last several years.

Under the leadership of Rev. Leon Sullivan, hundreds of African American Civil Rights leaders and business people have now embraced the idea of Pan Africanism in establishing policies for greater mutual exchange between Africans in America and the continent of Africa.

This is particularly inspiring when seen in light of the Civil Rights Movement which has historically been opposed to the Pan African Movement and our emphasis on reconnecting with Africa.

However, in this same connection, Pan African intellectual, activist, and scholarly community on the continent of Africa convened the First Pan African Conference on Reparations April 27-29, 1993 in Abuja, Nigeria that we should be reminded of.

One of the leading African Centered scholars and intellectuals on the continent of Africa, Chikwezie was one of the leading forces in the organizing of this conference that virtually went unreported in the western press.

More than forty African heads of state and senior government officials with delegations from, Europe, the Caribbean, Central America and the United

Our standard of justice in criminal trials requires the prosecution to convince a jury of the defendant's guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt." This standard was not met in the first trial, with too much evidence tainted and probably planned. Conversely, it now seems highly probable that Simpson planned and committed these murders.

But let us go beyond the narrow facts of the case to examine its larger political significance. Why was the entire nation deluged with this bad legal soap opera? Who gained and who lost from the media circus?

Before the arrest, O.J. Simpson had little connection with the African-American community. He was apparently mesmerized with the symbols of white power, prestige and sexuality. O.J. was quick to change his image through efforts for *Real* rental car commercials, but seemed at a loss when trying to locate black neighborhoods or organizations. O.J.'s racial awareness and political consciousness were virtually nonexistent. Unlike some socially-conscious black athletes, O.J. stood outside the struggles of black America. So given his obvious racial self-hatred and alienation, how did O.J. Simpson become the "poster boy" for black fairness in

the criminal justice system?

The Simpson trial came along at a time when the political assaults against black America were steadily escalating. In the universities, minority scholarships were being eliminated. Black democratic, pseudoscientific books such as *The Bell Curve* advocated the cultural and genetic superiority of whites over blacks. In the courts, minority economic self-aiders and majority-minority legislative districts were under attack. Inside the civil rights movement, the media and conservative interests were waging a relentless campaign to remove the Reverend Benjamin Chavis as head of the NAACP. Virtually the same day it was announced that O.J. was the prime murder suspect, black leaders representing a wide spectrum of ideologies

demanded that the NAACP headquarters in Baltimore, attempting to forge a black united front. I am convinced that many in the media seized upon the O.J. Simpson case with two objectives in mind: to illustrate beyond a doubt that black had been given "too much," and that the legal system went too far in protecting black criminals.

O.J. Simpson, once the darling of corporate America, had been given every possible perk and honor a Ne-

gro could ever expect. How dare he repudiate his patrons! The O.J. case symbolically told white America that affirmative action was no longer necessary, and that whites had become the innocent victims of black rage, crime and violence.

Logically, and not surprisingly, many African Americans felt it was necessary to rally behind O.J. Many of us privately thought that this athlete was nothing other than young black men were routinely railroaded in white courtrooms, as police destroyed or tainted evidence or coerced confessions from the accused. We knew that Mark Fuhrman was no isolated case, but symptomatic of a deep-seated racism within police departments throughout the country. It was not for O.J.'s personal situation, but for his sons, brothers, and husbands, that many African Americans questioned the criminal and civil prosecutions against him. White justice and black justice are still two different things.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City.

Renowned African Centered scholar, Dr. Jacob Carruthers was one of the leaders of the small, but brilliant US delegation.

The US delegation submitted the following proposals that were accepted by the conference and will be taken to the next Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting to be considered for adoption. The proposals were the following:

"Africans in the United States, now commonly referred to as African Americans, celebrate our status as one of the many African peoples around the globe and as proud 'on' and daughters of the African continent. As such, we identify with the hopes and illusions of Africa which stretches from the dawn of human civilization, flourished in the Nile Valley, and spread throughout the continent."

Therefore, the US delegation stated "that our history and condition be recognized as that of a nation within a nation."

"That as an aggrieved nation, we present our claims and requests through an African American Development Bank to make the Black population of the United States whole rather than three-fifths."

"That African nations recognize and support the right of reparation for those individuals of African ancestry in the United States" who wish to return home.

"That as a nation of Africa's progeny scattered abroad that we be provided membership in the OAU."

"Our delegation acknowledges with respect, the initiative of the Reparations Movement in the United States by the National Coalition of Blacks For Reparations 'N' COBRA."

People of African descent are moving towards Africa. This is the salvation of our race as we move into the 21st century to history of Africa, minds, bodies and spirit! We must reconnect with Africa!

8. Speak positively about the general efforts of African-American leaders.

9. Visit a prison or jail for the purpose of helping to heal a wounded soul. Avoid being judgmental.

10. Strive to be a model of excellence, compassion, and generosity. Seek to restrain unbridled ego and to enjoy the social feeling of being a part of a beloved African-American team that are in a hand to pull itself together, the other to connect with a larger American team.

When this final consolidation — all the ethnic teams playing on the same team — takes place, African-Americans, along with all other Americans, will find ourselves playing on the winning team in history.

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Serving the African American community for 13 years

MARCH 17 IS VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE, INFORMATION ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS

TRENTON—New Jerseyans not currently registered to vote in their municipalities must do so by Monday, March 17 to participate in the state's Annual School Election, the president of the New Jersey School Boards Association reminded the state's residents today.

The election will take place on Tuesday, April 15. Citizens in approximately 80% of the state's 696 local school districts will have the opportunity to elect members of their local school boards and to approve or reject proposed school budgets for 1997-98.

"Local school boards play a vital role in the operation of our schools," said Debrah M. Nock, NJSBA president. "On April 15, more than 1,500 school board positions will be on the ballot statewide. We urge New Jersey residents to participate in this important election. To do so, however, citizens must be registered to vote in their municipalities."

New Jersey residents can register to vote at the office of their municipal clerk or at their county board of elections. To register, a resident must be 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and maintain primary residence in the municipality in which they are seeking to vote.

RICE SEETHES OVER LIBRARY CLOSING

NEWARK—A valuable resource about to be taken away from Newark and not enough to bring down the city in power to stop it, claims West Ward Council Member, Ronald Rice. "It's a bureaucratic atrocity and it's always the superintendents who get the bad end of the deal," Rice fumed.

In a letter to Mayor Sherpe James, Rice stated that he was vehemently opposed to the closing of the public library in Mt. Vernon School. The library was the product of a cooperative effort between the Newark Public Library and the Newark public schools system.

Rumors of the library's impending closure first circulated for some time, Rice said. He tried to ascertain the veracity of the reports when he found out about them. The Council Member said that schools Superintendent Beverly Hall told him that the Board of Education was not responsible for the library closing.

In his missive, Rice questioned how the library was a member of the Board of Trustees, could allow the library to close without council discussion or community input.

"This issue is two-fold," Rice explained. "It is not just about outside influences to subvert the authority of the council. Second, we will not tolerate this type of disregard for the residents that we serve."

NEWARK SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$26 MILLION FROM THE STATE FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR

NEWARK—Dr. Beverly Hall announced today that the Newark School District has received \$26 million from the state that will be applied to the current school year's budget to lessen the impact of her reforms on local property taxes. These are special funds that have historically been allocated to the State-operated school districts of Jersey City and Paterson, but have never gone to Newark.

Hall is grateful that the state understands our problems and continues to strongly support our education reform efforts," Dr. Hall said. "The children of Newark will benefit from this help as we strive to provide a quality education."

"These additional resources will help support our strategic plan and improve educational opportunities in Newark. I will continue to work with the state to ensure that in the budget, so the maximum amount of funds possible can be directed into instructional programs for children," Dr. Hall continued.

In the past, Jersey City and Paterson have received a total of \$129 million dollars in this special aid from State-operated districts and are receiving a total of \$22 million in the current school year. These funds for Newark will go directly into the school district's budget to provide educational programs for children.

Whitman visits model program for inner city boys

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEW BRUNSWICK—Paul Robeson once said that in order for individuals to fully succeed they must "practice the virtues of self-respect, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy." The program known as Project 2000 has worked towards that goal among inner city boys, and students at the Paul Robeson Community School on Commercial Avenue played host to Governor Whitman as she visited the model program designed to improve the outlook and increase student achievement. She spent most of the morning with the students in the program.

Project 2000 was begun in 1991 by the Civic League, and patterned after a similar program at Washington D.C.'s Stanton Elementary School developed by



Dr. Spencer Holland. It recruits successful male volunteers from the community as positive role models by assigning them as "Teacher's Assistants" to various tasks in schools where they are in regular contact with students. It's a initial corporate sponsor was Johnson & Johnson, and since then AT&T and Merrill Lynch also joined the program. Teacher Assistants come from these corporations and participate at Lord Stirling and McKinley Community Schools as well as Paul Robeson.

"We're here primarily just to provide these special children. They can learn when they grow older," Teacher's Assistant and Johnson & Johnson employee Juan Simpson explained to the Governor. "We actually do the work along with them to show them that it is okay to be smart. We're trying to create some positive peer pressure."

The Governor visited a third and

eighth grade class in the school, and the students were eager to talk with her. She fielded many questions, the most popular ones regarding her life as a governor and possible plans to run for president in the future. Afterwards, she was entertained in the library by the 4th Grade Glee Club who sang a rendition of "The Greatest Love of All." At the end of the song, Robert Prince, 9, stepped forward and recited the Langston Hughes poem, "I, Too, Sing America," and Jacqueline Rodriguez, 9, asked the governor herself to come forward to present her with a keychain that said, "Thank You, Paul Robeson School." "You're very lucky," Governor Whitman said to the students. "You come from a school named after one of New Jersey's greatest sons, someone who suffered a great deal because he stood up for what he believed in, but they never took away his dignity."

"Project 2000 demonstrates how

corporate and community commitments to the schools can have a real impact on the lives and learning opportunities of students," The Governor also said. "It is a prime example of how resources can bring about major improvements in the lives of students whose academic success has traditionally been at risk."

"I am enjoying the experience and the opportunity," said one Teacher's Assistant, who also works at Johnson & Johnson. "It's a good program. What we are trying to stress to the kids is that if you stay in school and stay out of trouble, you can be anything you want."

In her State of the State Address, Governor Whitman announced that resource teams will be created in the Department of Education to ensure programs such as Project 2000 can be made available to all school districts in the state. \$175 million will be made available to 195 districts with high concentrations of poverty.

Redevelopment, curfew revision, gets approval from Painfield council

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

PLAINFIELD—Plans for new housing construction on Arlington Avenue were given its blessing by the council and the public, most notably a community group in attendance at Monday's City Council Meeting. A revision to a contested paragraph in the city's curfew ordinance was also approved.

City Housing Consultant David Schwartz spoke in support of the proposed housing. The council had earlier asked him to seek a number of wide ranging groups of housing goals that would improve housing opportunities and housing stock and tax base, as well as ways to increase home ownership for first time home-buyers in Plainfield. His focus has been on the Arlington Ave. Redevelopment area, which was established 19 years ago.

"We wanted to facilitate new construction where the city said it wanted new construction," he said. Schwartz also wanted to see that the project will have off-street parking, 60% minority ownership, in particular local ownership, comply with local affirmative action hiring and contracts, and a project where the land will be purchased, as opposed to donated to developers. He further stressed that this is not a project for "absentee landlords." This is a project that is not about investment properties," he said.

Developer Dean Mon of Arlington Avenue Associates later gave his presentation to the Council. The 28 units will be two blocks of townhouses starting at \$125,000. They are looking for families, but a single person with an income of at least \$25,000 will be able to purchase a home. Councilman Robert Ferraro was particularly

concerned about existing boarded up homes that could also be renovated, however Council President Malcolm Dunn suggested that that would be another issue to discuss at a later date. Councilman James Green is supportive of the plan and sees it as one with statewide ramifications saying, "I think the city of Plainfield has a golden opportunity to be a role model in the State of New Jersey." He said this plan also can speak to voters like Councilman's Ferraro's re-election suggestion.

Members of the public gave their opinion to the council, and most were pleased, asking for it to go ahead. Many of the attendees were members of the Triangle Community Development Association, a group that has been active in community redevelopment for some time. Triangle President Andre Shariff was just one from the group speaking in favor of the project. "Those two blocks have been maintained by Triangle," she said. "Anybody who has been in that neighborhood know that in the last few years, it has changed drastically. We support the development of those two blocks."

Others, however, did have some concerns, but they centered on the role of the block associations which many hope will be a large one, the possibility of drug dealers returning and cleaning up the area for environmental concerns. A gas station once occupied a lot and has since been torn down, but the lot will have to be cleared of contamination before any construction. The concern of Resident Philip Mason was the cost, which the Council put at \$100,000. In attendance at the time this issue came up, Latimore has spoken with them and was told that they were "100% behind" of the curfew, as school funding is affected by attendance.

Other Council business was the approval to accept the grant award of additional funding totalling \$24 million from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, WIC services to be used for the WIC immunization initiative activities, and the approval to accept a bid award contract from Sansone Plaza Dodge Motors Fleet in Red Bank for the purchase of six 1997 Dodge Neon Sedans. The original bids were rejected because they did not correctly fund the contract.

he should solicit her company regarding environmental matters.

The debate over language in the curfew ordinance that caused some tension a few weeks ago was resolved when the paragraph holding local merchants responsible for truancy, children or children violating curfew in their establishments, was changed to say if the merchant "knowingly" allows such a situation to occur. Councilman Green was concerned that the original language placed an unfair burden on the merchants, and he accepted this revision. Michael Latimore, Director of Public Affairs and Safety, who originally offered to remove the entire paragraph to save the ordinance, was also pleased with the revision, preferring that to doing something he felt may cost Plainfield in the future. "If we don't leave this paragraph in," he warned earlier, "it leaves a base uncovered, and it's going to come back to haunt us." The council approved the revision unanimously. Although there were no representatives of any local schools in attendance at the time this issue came up, Latimore has spoken with them and was told that they were "100% behind" of the curfew, as school funding is affected by attendance.

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"I played middle-sized roles as judges, lawyers, doctors and cops in the television series of Magnum P.I., Tour of Duty, and Jake and the Fat Man." He said that theater stage acting is his first love. He moved to Los Angeles about seven years ago to pursue acting full-time. "Hollywood is such a spiritual place and the work is empty work, that I began to look for things I could do for people in need of serious help," he said.

He became manager for a privately operated 40-bed community correctional institute in Watts, South Central Los Angeles, and later for a 52-bed facility in El Monte. "I loved Watts. I was there for almost three years," Fimiani said. "I felt safe in the ghetto, because I knew that there was a deep belief in God here which made me feel safe." He moved through the crowd talking softly to individuals and groups.

A July 1994 editorial in THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER, described how Roberts averted a potentially volatile incident when a large crowd of youth gathered at the Railroad Plaza in Asbury Park after the Creek Fest in Belmar about midnight, and a police force was poised to clear the area. "The bottom line is that this man (Roberts) singlehandedly had the 300 youths leave the plaza without incident or confrontation—physical or verbal."

Students celebrate black contributions

By Candace Walker

Black contributions to American history were celebrated at the annual Black History Month Program Sunday at the St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

The majority of the presentations were done by area youth. Plainfield High School sophomore Lauryn DeJesus recited a Maya Angelou poem, "And Still, I Rise." Her younger sister Jennifer wrote and recited her poem "February and Our People."

"I just learned the poem yesterday," the elder DeJesus says. "People always try to put somebody down but I'm confident. I do almost everything with expression. I love Maya Angelou. I'm reading one of her books now."

Stacey Hammond, who attends Timothy Christman School in Edison, wrote a poem entitled, "My African-American Heritage," which she recited along with another Angelou piece, "On Pulse of Morning."

Scotch Plains Fanwood High School freshman Cestus Higgins told the audience about the contributions of Lewis Latimer who created the carbon filament in light bulbs. She even drew a diagram on poster paper to show the location of the filament.

His invention made Thomas Edison's light bulbs affordable and enabled lights to burn longer. Latimer was the only Black scientist working with Edison. He also worked with Alexander Graham Bell.

"Thomas Edison got all the credit for inventing the lightbulb, but he didn't do it all by himself," Higgins said. "I wanted people to know who helped him."

Among other notable Black achiever mentioned were Benjamin Banneker and George Washington Carver. Banneker wrote almanacs,



Lauryn DeJesus at St. Johns Baptist Church in Scotch Plains

that kept accurate time for over 40 years and helped design Washington D.C. Carver developed hybrids and cross fertilization in plants. He developed many mixes for peanuts and sweet potatoes. Some examples are coffee, cosmetics, paper and candy.

The Children's Choir, under the direction of Sharyann Porter, sang "Stand in the Need of Prayer," a spiritual. Spirituals such as this one and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" were coded songs slaves used to escape freedom.

In addition to this program, every Sunday in February St. John's Baptist Church, members have been taking a few minutes in morning service to present someone in Black History.

Black History Week was initiated in 1926 by historian and Harvard Ph.D. Carter G. Woodson who started documenting the achievements of Black people in 1916.

"If our race had no recorded history, its achievements would be forgotten and in time claimed by other groups," Woodson was quoted as saying.

Big Brother pays visit to Asbury Park

By Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK—Two men sat in a corner at Sizzler's Restaurant, enjoying their meal and their renewed friendship, because they had not seen each other for twenty years. One man was Bob Fimiani, who had selected to be the Big Brother to the other man, James "Mr. Que" Roberts. Asbury Park Fimiani, who now lives in Long Beach, CA, was a volunteer with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program when he lived in Long Beach, and became Roberts' Big Brother in 1969.

Roberts who is now Chief of Security and Chief Investigator for the Asbury Park Housing Authority said that about a month earlier, he was talking to Mrs. Sweeney, the executive director of the Asbury Park Housing Authority about his background and why he is the way he is now. Roberts said that he attributed it to the experience he had with the Big Brother when he had not seen for twenty years. Sweeney was so impressed that she said she would find Fimiani for him. It took Sweeney only about two weeks to find and contact him.

Roberts said, "I was shocked when I heard from him and we had agreed that he would come to see me in Asbury Park in about a month." Unfortunately a death in his family brought Fimiani to New Jersey much sooner. He arrived and called Roberts

at about midnight, he told "Jimmy," as he calls him, told him not to go anywhere he would be right over to him. But instead they postponed their meeting until the morning.

It was a glorious meeting and Jimmy took me all over the housing projects to see and meet people, and to show me what he does," Fimiani continued. "You should see how he has calmed things down in the projects and made it a safe place. I was actually in awe as to how the kids came to him and responded to him. What a model for the kids to stay out of trouble."

That was quite a compliment when considering that since Fimiani had last seen him, Roberts had spent twenty years in jail, but for the last seven years he has been drug free, and doing wonderful things in the community. Roberts recalled when he first met Fimiani in 1969, "I was living at 305 Asbury Park Village and this tall, white-haired, white man came to my door, but most of all I was more surprised that all the kids in the village were drawn to him as well as I was." Fimiani said that he liked Jimmy and his warmth, and it was so clear that he had a depth of character that few people have, particularly in the midst of all his problems.

Business, a Monmouth College business graduate, with graduate study in counseling at Rider College, moved to Hawaii twenty years ago. In Ha-

with him, "I played middle-sized roles as judges, lawyers, doctors and cops in the television series of Magnum P.I., Tour of Duty, and Jake and the Fat Man." He said that theater stage acting is his first love. He moved to Los Angeles about seven years ago to pursue acting full-time. "Hollywood is such a spiritual place and the work is empty work, that I began to look for things I could do for people in need of serious help," he said.

He became manager for a privately operated 40-bed community correctional institute in Watts, South Central Los Angeles, and later for a 52-bed facility in El Monte. "I loved Watts. I was there for almost three years," Fimiani said. "I felt safe in the ghetto, because I knew that there was a deep belief in God here which made me feel safe." He moved through the crowd talking softly to individuals and groups.

A July 1994 editorial in THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER, described how Roberts averted a potentially volatile incident when a large crowd of youth gathered at the Railroad Plaza in Asbury Park after the Creek Fest in Belmar about midnight, and a police force was poised to clear the area. "The bottom line is that this man (Roberts) singlehandedly had the 300 youths leave the plaza without incident or confrontation—physical or verbal."

Roberts said that he loves his work, and wants to do it as long as he can, "I work twenty four hours a day for my people. I want to do all that I can to help them and keep them out of trouble." Fimiani after having ob-

served his work in the villages, said, "It is amazing that there are so many ways that Jimmy works like I work. Jimmy is tough, but tells them that he loves them at the same time." Fimiani is also a recovering addict.



James "Mr. Que" Roberts and his Big Brother, Bob Fimiani of Long Beach, CA, at their reunion

city news ad

Business Calendar

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Seminar, "Marketing Strategies for Non-Profit Organizations," offered by Montclair State University's Non-Profit Management Institute, 3 pm Dickinson Hall, MSU. For more information, call 201-655-4333.

BOUND BROOK—Seminar, "Break the Rules...and Close More Sales!" at Sander Sales Institute. For more information, call 908-668-0233.

MARCH 9-12

SEACAUCLUS—Conference, "MOBE X." The tenth annual symposium sponsored by the MOBE Marketing Opportunities in B (B) Entertainment Institute, At the Sheraton Meadowlands. For information, call 219-935-1888.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

WESTFIELD—Workshop, "How to Realign Your Retirement Dreams," 7:15 pm at the YMCA, Clark St. For more information, call Renee Golush or Steve Tebbel, 910-347-5018.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

NEW BRUNSWICK—Free public seminar on bankruptcy law at the New Jersey Law Center. For more information, call 908-937-7518.

NEW YORK—Small, minority and woman-owned business conference for contractors seeking opportunities under HUD programs throughout the New York Metropolitan area. Morris Hall Auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology. For more information, call 212-294-8000.

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The entrepreneur's corner:

Use new business to improve credit/net worth

By Pierre A. Clark

We all know that having good credit is critical in today's society. For an entrepreneur, having a good credit rating can make the difference between your ability to successfully establish a business or watching your concept wither and die.

How exactly is your creditworthiness determined? Three major factors are considered: (1) the assets you own; (2) the income those assets or your own work product generate; (3) and the historical record of how you repay the credit extended to you.

The factors that can destroy your credit rating include: A sudden disconnection from your job (dismissal or layoff) which can cripple or de-

stroy your ability to pay your bills in a timely manner; (2) a lack of ownership of valuable assets, which in the eyes of a lender impairs your capacity to borrow money using those assets as collateral; (3) the absence of a history of paying off big-ticket credit items (a car or home) which cripples your ability to qualify for higher amounts of credit.

Because it's essential that we learn how to play the credit game, I'm going to reveal here one of the best ways to improve your credit rating: Start a successful small business. Indeed, for African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics, starting a successful small business is the one way to create and own a vehicle that is a valuable asset and generates high, consistent income. As we'll show, you can then use this successful small business

to dramatically improve your credit rating.

Through your business, you can generate higher levels of income for two reasons: (1) the salary you can set for yourself as owner of the business; and (2) the ability to deduct business expenses from your gross income that will allow you to keep as net profit much more of the money you earn.

As the business becomes established (especially if you have incorporated the business) it becomes a valuable asset (like a home), which you can list on a balance sheet or in a credit application. Here's how to use this rapidly appreciating asset to create or improve your credit:

(1) Establish your business as a corporation, with you as president and majority or 100 percent stockholder. Then do the following: (a)

Open a business bank account, (b) register your firm with Dun & Bradstreet, (c) bid for and sign a contract to sell your product or service (see our column on how to generate your first \$10,000 in business income), (2) Update your own credit file with information about your status as an owner-employee of your new firm by ordering copies of your credit report from TRW, Equifax, and TransUnion, the three major national credit-reporting firms.

(3) If you have unpaid or delinquent bills or write-offs on your credit file, write a letter to each creditor to negotiate either a payment plan or actual settlement and discharge of the debt.

(4) With the salary and income from your new business, pay off those debts.

(5) At the same time, apply for new credit (Visa cards, installment credit) listing your business salary as your primary income source.

(6) Each time your business secures a new contract, pay yourself part of the proceeds as a commission or bonus and buy a certificate of deposit for yourself. Also use part of the proceeds to buy a certificate of deposit in the name of the business. Those certificates become assets that you can use as collateral for either personal or business credit.

If you follow these six steps, within a year's time you will have dramatically improved your credit profile. And you'll be the owner of a growing firm whose assets and income will drive your quest for financial independence.

Internet racism up, traditional anti-Semitism down

By Richard Pyle Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—"Racists and bigots" increasingly are airing their views on the Internet, while traditional forms of anti-Semitism declined overall in 1996 for the second straight year, a Jewish organization said last week.

The New York-based Anti-Defamation League said in its annual report that incidents of anti-Semitism

dropped by 7 percent from 1995, despite an increase in one category, vandalism.

It was the first time in a decade that the overall total was down two years in a row.

"However, in arenas yet to be quantified—the Internet and e-mail—anti-Semites, racists and bigots are having a field day," said Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director.

"Electronic hate is the dark side of technology, and anti-Semites have particularly taken to the medium,"

the ADL said in its yearly "audit" of anti-Semitism recorded 1,722 incidents last year, compared to 1,843 in 1995. The 941 acts of harassment, threat or assault reflected a 15 percent drop, but that was partially offset by a 7 percent rise in anti-Semitism incidents, from 727 to 781.

Foxman said the results showed law enforcement and educational programs were proving "an effective one counterpane," in the traditional arena of anti-Semitism, or expressed prejudice against Jews.

But the report said that with 35 million people now tapped into the Internet, it has become an unfettered outlet for hate purveyors, many of them anonymous.

"A disturbing stream of hate-filled, virulently directed against religions, ethnic, racial and cultural minorities flows unimpeded" on the Internet and in e-mail mass mailings, it said.

Because the Internet is unregulated, "bigots can open their hatred without ever running the risk of being identified," the report said.

Put up or shut up

Continued from page one

International. "The NAACP is hurting people they say they want to help," said Ann Rhodes of Doubletree Hotels Inc.

Rhodes said the call for a boycott was supported by 55 minority black organizations with a membership of more than 9 million, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc., the National Urban League and National Council of Negro Women.

Sixteen national companies were sent a four-page questionnaire seeking general information such as number of properties, number of rooms and number of black employees in executive, managerial and professional positions. It also asked whether the companies used minority advertising and whether the firms as vendors and whether the companies supported charities that serve the black community.

Of the 16 companies, none answered the entire survey and just six provided partial grades.

Marriott International and Hilton Hotels Corp. both received "C's," the highest grade awarded; Hyatt Hotels Corp., Adam's Mark Hotels and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Corp. were graded "C-minus," and HFS Inc., operators of Days Inns, got a "D."

Ten firms with lower grades were targeted by the boycott. Doubletree, a two-star hotel chain, and Promus Hotel Corp., which runs the Embassy Suites chain, answered some questions but withheld information dealing with employment and property ownership. Each received a "D-minus."

Mfume said seven firms notified the NAACP that they would not participate: Westin Hotels, Best Western International, Radisson Hospitality Worldwide, Renaissance Hotels and Resorts, Choice Hotels International, Holiday Inn Worldwide and Omni Hotels. All got "F's."

Doubletree gave no response at all. In response, the NAACP notified a Doubletree hotel in Little Rock, Ark., that a March regional conference would be moved elsewhere.

Doubletree's Rhodes said NAACP officials had agreed to give the company until early 1997 to get the requested information because of an impending merger. She added that the Little Rock Doubletree that is losing the NAACP conference has 65 percent black employees and more than one-third of them are in management.

At Choice Hotels International, which also got a failing grade, a spokeswoman said the NAACP requested the information just as the company was undergoing an ownership change.

"They asked at the worst possible time," said Curtis. She said the company would have no problem providing the requested information if the NAACP asked again.

Mfume said existing agreements should be honored if necessary.

1996 property tax deductions/credits to NJ taxpayers

By Richard D. Gardiner
Director, New Jersey Division of Taxation

Here's an important message for everyone who will be filing a 1996 New Jersey state income tax return: This year marks the initial phase of the new property tax deduction/credit program, which allows New Jersey taxpayers to deduct a portion of their property taxes or rent from gross income, or to take a credit against income tax due.

Here at the Division of Taxation, we want all taxpayers to reap the maximum savings they're entitled to under the law with as little confusion as possible.

Since almost every New Jersey resident required to file a gross income tax return is eligible for one of these two benefits, it's important that everybody understand the new process.

The most important thing to remember is that you can only take one benefit, not both. You'll be the one who decides whether you save more by taking the deduction or the credit

by filling out the schedules and worksheets included in your NJ-1040 packet and choosing the option that's best for you.

During this first year of the program, homeowners can deduct 50% of property taxes paid, or \$2,500, whichever is less. Tenants can deduct one-half of 18% of the rent you paid during the 1996 tax year or \$2,500, whichever is less.

The minimum savings for full-year residents of New Jersey who are not married and filing separately is the \$25 credit. If the property tax deduction does not provide you with

at least a \$25 benefit, then you should choose to take the credit.

There are no income limits or caps on this program. If you're a resident of New Jersey, are required to file an income tax return and paid property taxes here or rent on your New Jersey principal residence with its own separate kitchen and bath facilities, you're eligible.

If you are 65 or older, or blind or disabled, and not required to file an NJ-1040 form because your gross income is \$7,500 or less (\$3,750 or less if you are married and filing separately), you're entitled to the \$25 property tax credit (\$12.50 if you are a question in person visit one of our seven regional offices or call our Tax Hotline at (609) 588-2200. We're here from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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MARCH 6, 15, 22

ENGLEWOOD—"Freedom Train," the new story of Harriet Tubman, at the John Harms Theater. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY 7.

THROUGH MARCH 22

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "New York area MFA Exhibition" at the Hunter College Fine Arts Bldg. For more information, call 201-200-3214.

WAYNE—"Generations Jamboree," celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. Wayne Manor. For more information, call 800-275-0577.

THROUGH MARCH 31

MONTCLAIR—Exhibit in honor of Black History Month at the Israel Crane House. For information, call 1-800-JERSEY 7.

THROUGH APRIL 25

NEW YORK—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneers" at the Seagram Gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information, call 212-572-7379.

THROUGH MARCH 23

TRENTON—Photography by Jersey City resident Laurinda Stockwell on view at New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street. For more information, call 609-292-6404.

THROUGH MARCH 27

COLTS NECK—"I'm a Big Kid Now!," a "school" experience for youngsters ages 3 to 5. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Dorothea Activity Center. For more information, call 908-942-4000.

MARCH 8, 15

MOUNTAINVIEW—"Super Science Discovery Day" for children ages 3-8. Part of the 11th annual Science Fair. Trillside's Nature & Science Center, Coles Ave. & New Providence Rd. For more information, call 908-789-3070.

THROUGH MARCH 9

NEW YORK—1997 Double Grammy nominee Michael Brecker and his all-star group at Birdland. For more information, call 212-924-3816.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

RUTHERFORD—Musical, "Jelly Roll The Music and the Man" 6 pm at the Williams Center for the Arts. For more information, call 201-939-2323.

CRAWFORD—After-school story circle with Storyteller Charles Blake Alston at the Crawford Public Library. For more information, call 908-705-7272.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

ORANGE—Bradford Hayes Quartet with the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick Jazz Ensemble, at Roseau's Manor. For more information, call 201-643-9727.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Performance by Black Unlabeled, an eight-piece from capella group from Zimbabwe. Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-5112.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

NEWARK—Performance artist Michele Dalton presents "Spirit & Flesh" at the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St. For more information, call 201-371-7756.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Conference, "Women's Work: A Fine and Long Tradition" of NJ Community Leadership, part of the statewide International Women's Day Celebration. 9:30-4 pm, Trayes Hall, Douglas College, Rutgers University. For more information, call Shelley Jacobs Mintz, 908-756-3836.

NEWARK—Women in Support of the Million Man March, in celebration of Women's History Month, sponsors "A Day For Reconnecting," featuring a book signing by author Ruby Shivers (*We Must Rethink, Title, and Tasteless and Other Nonsensical Expressions that Keep Us Damaged*). At the Million Man Mallroom. For more information, call 908-756-9665.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

WESTBURY—"Dick Fox's Doo Wop Extravaganza" featuring The Skyliners, The Drifters, Clarence "Frogman" Henry, and more. At Westbury Music Fair, Brush Hollow Rd. For information and tickets, call 516-334-0800.

MIDDLETOWN—Ballroom dancing at the Tatum Park Red Hill Activity Center. For more information, call 908-842-4000.

CRAWFORD—Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company presents a dance-theater show, *DANCE/STORIES* at the Union County Arts Center. For more information, call 908-499-8226.

MARCH 26, 27

CRAWFORD—Teen Arts Festival, Union County College. For more information, call 908-558-2550.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "Colored Town" Overturn 1947: Max Waldman Images of a Southern Black Community at the Schomburg Theater. For more information, call 212-491-2259.

NJPAC announces education programs

NEWARK, NJ—The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) announced its arts education programs which are expected to reach more than 100,000 children in nearly 100 communities during the next school year. The far-reaching education program is designed to attract students and families to the new Center, opening in October and to sustain NJPAC's presence in the schools.

At the heart of the education program is the new Bell Atlantic Passport to Culture SchoolTime Performance Series, a daytime series for student groups that features more than 110 performances by 37 different artists and companies. Bell Atlantic is

also the sponsor of the FamilyTime Performance Series that will feature many of the same performing artists and companies as in the daytime series. Butressing these new performances are NJPAC's training programs, in-school residencies, professional development workshops, and a roster of Principal Affiliates focusing on music, dance, and theater.

Performing artists from every discipline will bring a world of culture to youth, including Sweet Honey in the Rock, Salsa Festival, Theatreworks/USA with its new play *Paul Robeson*, Little Theatre of the Deaf in a *World of Whys*, and the famous Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble.



Clockwise: Carolyn Dorfman, Artistic Director, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company; Deborah Mitchell, NJPAC Director, Ballet, Hispanic-Viva Las Americas—all participating in arts education at NJ PAC



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When We Were Kings

Part II of background to a film by Leon Gast and Taylor Hackford of the story of the 'Rumble in the Jungle'

After being freed - on what amounted to a technicality - from a pending five-year jail sentence by the United States Supreme Court, Muhammad Ali had come out of a forced three-and-a-half year retirement to fight again in October 1970. En route to regaining the heavyweight crown, of which he had been stripped by the World Boxing Association, he knocked out Jerry Quarry on October 26th and Oscar Bonavena on December 7th.

But the following year, he was worn down in a grueling 15-round championship fight, taking on too much too soon in trying to win back his title from "Smokin' Joe Frazier. He won the lesser North American Boxing Federation crown in 1971, lost and then regained it in decision fights with Ken Norton in 1973.

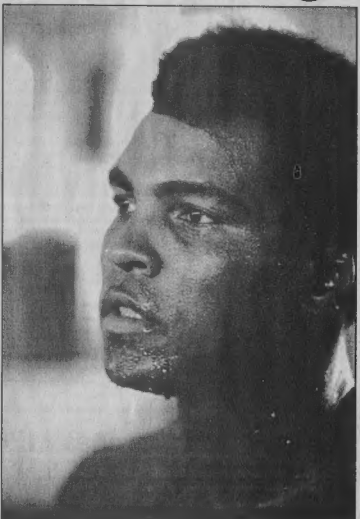
In the summer of 1973, George Foreman had pummeled Frazier to win the WBA championship. He did it on his 25th birthday. In March of 1974, he destroyed Norton, defending his championship. Neither of Foreman's opponents had gotten past the second round.

In 1974, Ali was 32 years old. Sonny Liston, the man he had defeated to win his first championship and against whom he had defended that title only nine years before, had died of a drug overdose in 1970. By the estimation of most boxing experts, the era of Ali's claim to heavyweight boxing dominance had died around that same time.

Still, an enterprising ex-con and would-be promoter Don King, knew that an audience would pay to see the young colossus Foreman confront the colorful, controversial veteran Ali in a battle for undisputed claim to the world heavyweight championship.

"Don King went to George Foreman and said, 'Will you fight Ali for \$5 million?'" relates Ali biographer Thomas Hauser. "Then he went to Ali and said the same thing. So, then he had both fighters. What he didn't have was the \$10 million."

Displaying the salesmanship that would earn him grudging admiration



Muhammad Ali in Zaire

from even the legions who claim to have been swindled by him over the years, King shopped the fight. He found a willing buyer in the President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko. But Mobutu would never be among those former King business partners who felt the unconventionally coiffed fight promoter didn't deliver full value for their money.

"Countries got war to see their name on the map," observes Ali. "And wars cost a lot more than \$10 million."

The fight was scheduled for September 25, 1974 in Kinshasa. But that was not to be.

"We (the sports press) were on our way to Zaire," recalls photogra-

pher Ken Regan, who would later be the only photographer to get the photo of the knockout punch that became one of the most famous pictures in Ali's much publicized career. "We had stopped in Luxembourg to change planes when a rumor began spreading around that there was an injury to one of the fighters. Don King tried to dispel the rumor; someone got to a phone and found out that, in fact, there was an injury to Foreman and they had to set the fight back six weeks. King was trying to get us all on that plane - because he'd chartered it - and get us over there where we'd be stuck for six weeks."

On September 20th, while spar-

See WHEN WE WERE KINGS/page 10

TIM ALLEN

Disney's

JUNGLE 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 8 PM

Disney Channel

A wedding on our anniversary.

WEDDING DANCE

In 1982, ARTZ and Crossroads Theatre Company began a relationship that would result in a series of dramatic new works from a wide array of talented young artists.

Now, our 15th anniversary will be celebrated with a "wedding" — as Crossroads Theatre Company, in association with *ARTZ On Stage*, presents *WEDDING DANCE*, a contemporary fable that's no fairy tale.

Written by exciting new playwright Dominic Taylor, *WEDDING DANCE* mixes urban realities with a wickily funny sense of society. Casting a sharp eye on families, friendship, and ultimately life itself, it is a play that successfully breaks down barriers while breaking new ground in the African American theater.

At ARTZ, we're proud of our long association with Crossroads Theatre Company, and of the role we've shared in nurturing new voices and new visions in business, the arts, and in the communities we serve.

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Brotherhood services held at Temple Shalom

by Avery Grant

ABERDEEN, NJ—The sanctuary of the synagogue was packed with its members and members of area black churches attending the annual brotherhood services at Temple Shalom.

In his welcoming remarks, Rabbi Henry M. Weiner, said, "We look forward to joining in this combined services of brotherhood and peace. We also pay homage to Rev. Dargun and Rev. Fuller (who have passed), who worked so hard to make our communities harmonious." The brotherhood services were started over twenty years ago by the two ministers and other clergy, but had not been held for a couple of years. Rabbi Weiner said he told Pauline Drake, who attends his scriptural study class on Tuesday mornings, that he missed the combined service, and that he wanted to start it again. Her response was yes, and she recommended her new, young minister as the guest preacher. Drake, black and a member of New Providence Baptist Church,



(Left to right) Rev. Eddie L. Sanders, pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Rev. Keith Roberson, pastor of New Providence Baptist Church, and Rabbi Henry L. Weiner of Temple Shalom greet before starting the Brotherhood service at Temple Shalom.

Cliffwood, is very active in the black and Jewish religious and civic communities. She was the first black president of Hadassah, and was also the first black president of the New Jersey State Veterans of Foreign War Ladies Auxiliary.

Rev. Keith Roberson, Drake's minister graciously accepted, and chose his scripture text from the first chapter of Genesis, "And so God created man in his own image... male

and female." In his message, titled, "The Common Struggle," Rev. Roberson stressed that our apparent (physical) differences ought not separate us, because there is so much in common that brings us together. "As I looked out on the congregation, I marveled at how great our God is, because none of us are clones of each other, but we can come together and share. Our struggle should be about what God wants us to be, and for us to



Combined choir singing at the brotherhood service in Temple Shalom. The guitarist is Stephen Drogkin, and at his left is his wife, Cantor Susan C. Drogkin. The choir was composed of members from the temple and area black churches.

success we must join hands as we walk the path together," he said.

Roberson related how the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in February 1909. He said that it was shortly after a two-day riot in Springfield, Illinois in 1908, ironically the hometown of President Abraham Lincoln, that nine clergy, three of whom were Jews, gathered with other blacks and whites to form the NAACP, be-

cause they understood the common struggles.

Rev. Eddie L. Sanders, pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Montville read a responsive reading, and the choir of the combined churches sang. After the service, the congregations gave a very generous offering for the fund for the burned out black churches, and enjoyed refreshments during the fellowship hour.

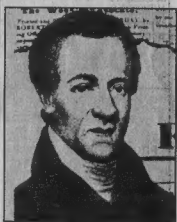
Black press

Continued from page 1

from a vicious anti-Black campaign that occurred in the early 1820's in New York. Mordcaim M. Noah, editor of the New York Enquirer published a daily barrage of written attacks questioning the integrity and courage of Black Men and impugning the chastity of Black women, among other things. A group of concerned African-American men, who had been looking for ways to defend themselves and their community, held a meeting at the home of M. Boston Crumwell to consider Noah's attacks. The normal avenues of public communication being closed to them, they decided their best alternative was to initiate a Black newspaper. Anticipating that fearful meeting were two brilliant young men, the Reverend Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm.

With Cornish handling the business and Russwurm handling the editorial matters, the new venture was launched on March 16, 1827. The founders of the Black press set forth their objectives in the first issue. They expressed an abhorrence to the abolition of slavery and to provide a medium of self-determination for their brothers and sisters. Under the heading "To Our Patrons" were the following exhortations:

In presenting our first number to our Patrons, we feel all the difference of persons entering upon a new and untried line of business. But a moment's reflection upon the noble objects, which we have in view by the publication of this Journal; the appearance at this time, when so many schemes are in action concerning our people—encourage us to come boldly before an enlightened public. For we believe that a paper devoted to the dissemination of useful knowledge among our brethren, and to their moral and religious improvement, must meet with the cordial approbation of every friend to humanity. The peculiarities of this Journal, renders it important that we should advertise to the world our motives by which we are actuated, and the objects which we contemplate. We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentation, in things which concern us dearly, though the estimation of some most trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise towards us benevolent feelings; still (with sorrow we confess it) there are others who



Samuel E. Cornish

make it their business to enlarge upon the least trifle, which tends to discredit and pervert of colour and pronounce anathemas and denounce upon whole body for the misconduct of this guilty one. The civil rights of a people being of the greatest value, it shall be our duty to be diligent in our brethren, when oppressed, and to lay the case before the public.

Although neither man was an experienced journalist, the paper carried a variety of items of interest to the community both locally in New York and in the various other cities where it was sent. But, first and foremost, Freedom's Journal was a tenacious abolitionist newspaper with a decidedly religious orientation.

Black church launches \$12million arson prevention, education initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Congress of National Black Churches (CNBC) recently launched its Church Rebuilding and Arson Prevention Initiative at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

At a cost of \$12 million, the initiative aims to rebuild and restore burned churches, prevent future arson and promote ecumenical and multi-racial inclusiveness. Thirteen states, including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama

and Louisiana will see implementation of this aggressive initiative over the next three years.

CNBC received \$6 million in funding from the Lilly Foundation, Inc. for the Church Rebuilding and Arson Prevention Initiative. Together with HUD and National Council of Churches, CNBC is part of the National Rebuilding Initiative established by President Clinton to ensure that burned churches receive rebuilding support quickly and efficiently.

During the press conference, the leaders of the CNBC, Chairman Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush of the

Church of God in Christ and Founder and Chairman Emeritus Bishop John Hurst Adams of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, applauded the initiative's goals of creating long-term commitments to restore communities and rebuild churches.

"This initiative signifies CNBC's long-term commitment to have our churches restored and communities healed," said Bishop Winbush. "The goal of the program is arson prevention and reduction. CNBC moved to develop a process to make the appropriate response. We also want to address the underlying causes by work-



From left to right: Bishop John Adams, CNBC founder and chair emeritus; Ms. Sullivan Robinson, CNBC deputy executive director; Bishop Roy L. Winbush, CNBC chairman; Mr. Larry Doss, president of the National Council of Churches; Dr. W. Franklin Richardson, CNBC consultant and pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, NY; and Dr. Niehan Allen, program executive of Initiative.

ing at the local level to establish community coalitions that will remain in place long after the physical edifice has been restored," he added.

In addition, since an overwhelming number of church arson have been committed by young people, a special focus will be placed on educating youths. Primary and secondary school students will be encouraged to express their feelings about the burnings through essays and art which will be read and displayed prominently throughout the affected communities.

Between January 1, 1995 and December 17, 1996, 318 churches were devastated by arson. Many of these churches were CNBC denomi-

nations, making CNBC especially determined to restore and rally in support of the communities where churches were burned.

CNBC says it looks forward to a 21st century without church burnings. By instituting comprehensive public education campaigns, educating churches on how to install and effective security systems and fire retardant materials, and promoting ecumenical and multi-racial inclusiveness, the CNBC believes its goals can be reached.

The toll free number for more information on the Church Rebuilding and Arson Prevention Initiative is 1-800-424-8808 and in the District of Columbia call 202-530-0765.

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1-Year ARM

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27 Prospect Street, New York, NY 10017

City News Religious Directory

Trinity and St. Phillips Cathedral

Church Services:
Weekdays:
12:10 p.m.
Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.

24 Rector St.,
Newark, NJ
07102
201-622-3505

Rev. Petero
A.N. Sabune

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 10 a.m. -
1 p.m.

925 Ridgewood
Ave., North
Brunswick, NJ
08902
908-545-4063

Pastor Leo H.
Graham

Abundant Life Family Worship Center

Church Services:
Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.

45 Hampton St.,
Metuchen, NJ
08840
908-545-3897

Rev. Ronald L.
Owens

Imani Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 11:00 a.m.

428 Central Ave.,
East Orange, NJ
201-678-7222

Rev. Moses Alexander
Knott, Jr.

Faith Tabernacle Church

Church Services:
Weekdays:
Fri. 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 10:45 a.m. &
6:00 p.m.

1037 Frank Street,
Roosevel, NJ 07030
201-767-6358

Bishop Herbert
L. Bright

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Chavis converts to Islam when we were Kings

WASHINGTON, DC (AP)—As a Christian minister, Benjamin F. Chavis said uplifting black people was his primary goal.

Now as Benjamin F. Chavis Muhammad, the former head of the NAACP says the Chicago-based Nation of Islam's influence in the black community helped to spur his conversion to the religious sect.

"What other organization is taking men and women out of despair and making them smile? There has been a convergence and it has evolved into the Nation of Islam," he said in a telephone interview Monday, one day after announcing his conversion in Chicago.

The impact of Chavis Muhammad's conversion may be most strongly felt within the Nation of Islam, since leader Louis Farrakhan is 63 and has battled prostate cancer in recent years.

Chavis Muhammad dismissed talk of succeeding Farrakhan as "wild speculation" and said he didn't expect any problems from others who might have their eyes on taking over from Farrakhan.

"It's premature to talk about successors to Minister Farrakhan because

the minister is strong, healthy and vibrant," Chavis Muhammad said. "And I'm pleased to report that I have been embraced by all of the leadership. We had a good talk this morning and this was no surprise to them."

Chavis Muhammad said he has been preparing for his conversion by reading the Koran, Islam's holy book, for the past five years.

"This is not a gimmick. This is life transformation," he said. He added that his wife, Martha Chavis, also is taking the name Muhammad and that he will take additional courses of study to become a Nation of Islam minister.

"The God of Judaism is the god of Christianity which is the god of Islam," he said.

A new name and religious conversion are only the latest changes for Chavis Muhammad.

He burst onto the national scene in the 1970s as a member of the Wilmington 10, a group of activists convicted in the firebombing of a white-owned grocery in a fight over school desegregation in Wilmington, N.C. He spent more than four years in North Carolina prisons before the conviction was overturned.

After working as a United Church

of Christ minister in Cleveland, Chavis was hired in 1993 to lead the NAACP. But after 18 months, he was fired after disclosing he allocated more than \$330,000 in NAACP funds to quiet sexual harassment allegations.

Allying himself more closely with Farrakhan, he helped the Nation of Islam leader organize the Million Man March in 1995.

Farrakhan was the chief apostle of Elijah Muhammad, who founded the Nation of Islam, which advocates separation from white society and adheres to strict moral and dietary codes. The group has been credited with turning around the lives of many blacks.

Chavis Muhammad said he would try to work with all groups, including Jews, to help find solutions to inner city problems. He added that while Farrakhan has been accused of making anti-Semitic statements, "I don't carry that baggage."

"I have no history in that regard," Chavis Muhammad said. "I haven't had any problems with the Jewish community. I hope all people will celebrate my working with the Nation of Islam."

WHITMAN SAYS NO TO TICKET DEREGULATION

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Gov. Christie Whitman said Friday she is not yet willing to go along with an Assembly bill to permanently remove controls on how much ticket brokers are permitted to earn in surcharges.

The state two years ago suspended regulations on surcharges. The idea was to eliminate scalping at concerts and sports events, and to make tickets more readily available in an unfettered market.

The Assembly passed a bill last week to permanently repeal surcharge regulations and thus allow brokers to attach whatever surcharge they wish.

But Whitman said she will not sign such a bill until she is sure the experiment has worked. The governor said she will wait until the Division of Consumer Affairs completes a report on ticket prices.

"What was the impact on the ticket buyer, on people who want to be able to go to events?" Whitman said. "I recognize that there is legislation moving on this. I would urge the Legislature to think very carefully about this until such time as we have the opportunity to further study it."

New Jersey Citizen Action, a labor-based consumer group, held a news conference Friday to protest the bill. Citizen Action director Phyllis Salowe-Kaye said the experiment has been a failure, claiming informal phone surveys of brokers showed markups of several hundred dollars for prized sports and concert tickets.

Concert promoter John Scher attended the news conference to oppose the bill, and Salowe-Kaye distributed statements from Bruce Springsteen warning of "price gouging" by ticket brokers.

Price calls for support

Continued from page 1
versity. "The problem isn't just the schools' disengagement of parents and a culture that demeans high academic performance," he noted. In Steinberg's recent study of 20,000 high school seniors, 50% responded that they could bring home grades of C or worse without upsetting their parents; 40% said their parents never attended school programs, and only 1 in 3 students reported having daily conversations with their parents.

Student peer pressure plays a significant negative role in undermining academic achievement according to Dr. Steinberg's findings, with almost 20% of students responding that they did not try as hard as they could in school because of worries about what their friends might think. A high school English teacher whose stu-

dents are predominantly from white middle-class homes observed that when I check notebooks there are virtually no notes. They lose their books and they don't bring pens or notebooks to class. When I try to discipline, some of them just pick up and walk out.

But the forum heard about some successes as well. "We have persuaded six urban school districts to agree that all of their middle school students should have a minimum of the children will take 'dum-dum' math courses. Through this part of our Equity 2000 program, we have found that many more of our children are capable of mastering algebra, making them better prepared for college," reported Dr. Vinetta Jones, national director of Equity 2000, The College Board.

Yale not jail

Continued from page 4

ity, and stability among our teacher workforce.

(7) Our youth must be taught the skills of survival and success. They will have a grasp of the economic system, to allow them to effectively pursue jobs and create wealth. Our youth must be taught to market, barter, sell, and trade—to gain the entrepreneurial skills that allow them to apply economic principles and make money legally.

(8) Our children need health care and early childhood education programs. Studies demonstrate the correlation between physical and mental well-being, Head Start opportunities, and the ability to learn.

(9) In a world where everyone is a neighbor—one button away on the Internet—multilingual education is essential.

(10) We encourage the media—a primary factor in the development of

the minds and values of our children—to stop the demeaning stereotypes that unfortunately shape the visions of our children's future. By age 15 our youth have seen 18,000 hours of television, listened to 22,000 hours of radio, seen one quarter of a million conflicts resolved by killings, spent 11,000 hours in school, and spent less than 3,000 hours in church.

Media has, quantitatively, more access to the minds of our youth, and a qualitatively greater impact than churches and schools combined.

We are calling for us, as parents, to mobilize parents and churches across the country, Congressional and Senate hearings to address these issues, meetings with the President, and legislation from Congress to rebuild the infrastructure of our schools.

Rev. Jackson noted that the youth

Continued from page 7

ring, George Foreman had sustained a gash above one eye that required 11 stitches. The cut would have to be fully healed before the two fighters entered the ring. So, despite Don King's whistling in the dark, the fight was postponed for what turned out to be six weeks.

The sports press and ticket holders were all thrown into turmoil, rejudging schedules and rebooking flights. Their vexation was minimal compared with those who had already made the trip—including the fighters and their entourage—and learned that President Mobutu was refusing to let them leave the country until the fight was over.

But for Africans, this was a time of glory. And Ali used the six weeks to turn himself into an African king. Long before the match began, Ali had already crowned himself the people's champion.

"It was a great joy to see that the championship was going to happen in Africa," says actor Malik Bowens. "At last the world was paying attention to our continent. We knew Muhammad Ali as a boxer but, more importantly, (we knew him) for his political stance. When we saw that America was at war in a third world country—the Vietnam—and that one of the children of the U.S. had 'fought' in Vietnam (them?) They haven't done anything against me." For it was extraordinary to see that in the America of that time, someone could take such a position. He may have lost, he may have lost millions of dollars, but that's what he gained the esteem of millions of Africans.

"The chant was taken up throughout Kinshasa and all around the nation: 'Ali, Bomaye!' 'Wherever he went, he was hailed as the champion. And Ali, as was his style, did nothing to discourage that impression."

"Ali, Kilili!" Everywhere he went, he was hailed as the champion. And Ali, as was his style, did nothing to discourage that impression."

was surprised when Nixon resigned? Just wait! I'll kick George Foreman's behind." Ali boasted in one of his trademark extemporaneous "poems."

in our well-funded jails have common characteristics:

- 60% to 90% are high school dropouts
- 85% to 92% are functionally illiterate
- 80% have tested drug positive
- 75% have been jailed more than once
- With a diminishing commitment to provide education and treatment, young people tend to be recycled through the prison system at an alarmingly high rate. They tend to emerge much worse than when they entered.

In all of our cities we see the growth of massive, spurious jail complexes, filled with our youth. Yet we know that if we were to provide front-side investment, rather than stop-gap measures on the backside, this situation could reverse. There is a better way—invest in public schools, not jails.



Muhammad Ali training for fight

While Ali ostensibly had that much confidence in his ability to win, he might have been the only boxing insider who did.

"I don't think (Ali) can beat George Foreman," the late sports commentator Howard Cosell editorialized. "Maybe he can pull off a miracle. But I can't conjure that."

"I'd seen Foreman fight before," says George Plimpton. "I saw him destroy Frazier. One thing I always remember is, a beaten fighter, all of a sudden, he just disappears in size... Frazier became a pygmy while Foreman suddenly became this gigantic figure."

"I think Ali was scared and he knew he was going to be very scared as he got closer and closer to the fight," says Mailer summing up his observations of the weeks before the fight. "With his ego, he could keep telling himself that he would dominate Foreman, that he would dominate Mobutu, the resident King of Zaire. But he would make a fool of him... but in his private moments, he had to know that he would not dance nearly as well against two fighters—Joe Frazier and Ken Norton—whom Foreman had demolished."

Ali's doctor had a plane standing by at the airport, ready to fly the injured fighter to a hospital in Madrid should that prove necessary. Still, there were reasons not to begin the encores. Cosell quite so calmly.

"There was usually a press conference at the end of the training day,"

recalls noted sports columnist Vic Ziegel who was covering the fight for *The New York Post*. "Ali kept telling all the reporters how he was gonna dance for 15 rounds and we all knew that Ali hadn't danced in a long time and that Ali Foreman had to do was take one step and the ring was cut off and Ali couldn't move. So our questions were all on the order of, 'You can't dance against this guy. You guys' gonna hurt you.' Ali saw where we were leading him and he held up a hand and he said, 'What you guys have got to remember is, you all think George is so bad. You think George is the toughest man alive. Guys, white folks, as a white man, I tell you black folks than black folks is of black folks.'"

"A lot of people say it was his biggest psyche job ever," relates Cosell. "Ali stayed in Zaire and was actually able to enjoy the time he was there. He went out on trips and had a great time. Foreman, on the other hand, was miserable from the day he arrived there. He wanted to get in the fight over with and get out. Then it turned out he was going to have to stay an extra six weeks."

No one will ever know what happened in the minds of the two fighters during the six weeks in which the bout was delayed. But few doubt it was in this interim that Ali launched his tactical offensive.

"We all have a moment when we're on top of our game," explains Sosenberg, who came up with the film's title. "For Muhammad Ali, this would be the crowning achievement in an extraordinary career. He was a king among kings—from Mobutu, the resident King of Zaire, to James Brown, the King of Soul, to Don King. But Ali, he was on a whole other level... Ali was the King of the World."

George Foreman was a monumental obstacle to what Ali and his supporters perceived as his royal legacy. But then Ali had already challenged and defeated the U.S. government.

Finally, to the shouts of "Ali, Bomaye!" the greatest heavyweight fighter of the modern era employed the "Rope-a-Dope," a right-hand lead, constant verbal taunting, and an unrelenting refusal to retreat, ultimately unseating his opponent.

Baseball season dedicated to Robinson

Continued from page 1

renewed effort to increase minority hiring, asking each team to establish goals and promising to monitor their progress.

Ali Campanis, then the general manager of the Dodgers, created a furor 10 years ago when he said on national television of blacks: "I truly believe they may not have some of the necessities to be, let's say, a field manager or perhaps a general manager."

"We've made I think considerable progress in the last five or 10 years," Selig said. "We have much yet to be done. This year will be seen as an opportunity."

While the percentage of minority workers in baseball's New York offices has increased greatly, the percentage of increases among the teams has lagged. "Jack was impatient for change and rightfully so," Rachel Robinson said. "I think he would think we have not come far enough. There has been retrenchment in society—a reference to scaling back of affirmative action programs."

The Robinson Foundation was established by his family following his death in 1972. The foundation gives scholarships to 142 students and 66 universities, and says 92 percent of them have graduated.

Robert P. Marasco
Clerk, City of Newark

VOTING MACHINE SAMPLE BALLOT MAESTRA DE LA BOLETA ELECTORAL SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION — ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL ESPECIAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1997 — MARCHES 11 DE MARZO DE 1997

POLLS OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. — LAS URNAS ABIERTAS DE 7:00 A.M. A 8:00 P.M.

FOR WRITE IN VOTES Votos Para Candidatos Por Escribir		QUESTION Pregunta		CONNECTION WITH THE AUTHORITY'S SPOTLIGHT PROJECT be nullified?		INTERPRETATION STATEMENT: It is the purpose of this provision to be presented to the voters to allow them to vote on the issue of whether or not the City of Newark should be nullified by the City of Newark. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project.		In order to be eligible to vote in the City of Newark, a voter must be a resident of the City of Newark. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project.		The Authority is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project. The City of Newark is the only city in the State of New Jersey that has a spotlight project.	
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Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
Sí		No		Sí		No		Sí		No	